

HOW GOD SAVED A CANADIAN



"How God Saved" Series, No. 4. GEO. O. BENNER, ONTARIO

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How God Saved a Canadian.

A MEMORABLE night, one never to be forgotten, was the 1st of March, 1881, to me. I had trudged $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles through a blinding snowstorm to reach a little schoolhouse where the Gospel was announced to be preached. I reached it in due time, went in and took a seat, and soon was listening to God's remedy for sin-sick sinners, told out in its simplicity. And during that Gospel service, while the stormy winds were raging without, the "peace" of God that comes "through believing" took possession of my heart within—I had been born of God.

Much had to be unlearned before I was willing to receive the salvation which is only to be obtained as a "free gift." I had always been led to believe it was by "our prayers and good works" that we were "made good enough" for heaven. But I found it was "not of works," nor "by works" of our own, that sinners were saved, but by the "finished" work of Jesus (John 19. 30).

I had thought a great deal of my prayer-saying, and believed my prayers would "weigh well" when put in the scales along with my other

"good works" against my "evil works." I knew not that God was *praying me to accept His salvation*, and be "reconciled" to Him (2 Cor. 5. 20).

A difficulty now stood in my way; I could not feel as though I loved God, and my want of love, I thought, was an insurmountable barrier to my having my sins forgiven. Oh, how dark and ignorant was I concerning God's way of salvation. My difficulty vanished before the light of the wondrous truth, that "*God so loved the world*, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life;" and "*Herein is love; not that we loved God*, but that *He loved us*, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (John 3. 16; 1 John 4. 10). I saw, instead of my waiting to feel love to God, that I was to believe in His love to me, and accept His love gift, and the result would be love toward the One who had done so much for me, filling my heart. When I saw there was no "works" to do, nor any "feelings" to wait for, I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad. I believed in Him as the One who died for my sins. I rested satisfied

with the work He accomplished for my salvation. I accepted Him as *my own* Saviour, and I knew I was saved, not because I felt happy, but because *Jesus died for me*; and God has said, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life*" (John 3. 36).

Unsaved reader, I entreat you to take salvation *now* on God's terms, namely—"Without money and without price" (Isa. 55. 1). "As a free gift" (Rom. 6. 23). "Through believing" (Acts 16. 31). Then you will know you are saved. G. O. B.

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3. 16).

Let your difficulties also vanish before this wondrous truth.



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